

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BANGKO 04779 160752Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
-----037385 161738Z /50

R 160631Z FEB 78
FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9886
INFO USMISSION GENEVA
AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM
AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

C O N F I D E N T I A L BANGKOK 4779

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1
TAGS: SNAR, UN, LA
SUBJECT: UNFDAC PROGRAM IN LAOS

REF: GENEVA 2343

1. IN THE COURSE OF A MEETING FEB 9 WITH AMBASSADOR ON
OTHER MATTERS SWEDISH AMBASSADOR OBERG ASKED FOR OUR VIEWS
ON REPORTS IN THE PRESS AND ELSEWHERE THAT ILLICIT
NARCOTICS FROM LAOS MAY BE ENTERING THE WORLD MARKET.
WE NOTED THAT THERE HAVE BEEN SOME INDICATIONS THAT
ILLICIT LAO NARCOTICS MAY APPEAR ON THE MARKET, BUT THE
INFORMATION AT THIS POINT IS TENUOUS AND UNCERTAIN.

2. OBERG EXPRESSED SOME CONCERN IN VIEW OF THE FACT THAT
SWEDEN IS CONTRIBUTING TO THE UNFDAC PROGRAM IN LAOS,
AIMED AT INCOME SUBSTITUTION AND TREATMENT OF ADDICTS.
HE SAID THAT, IF IT IS TRUE THAT ILLICIT NARCOTICS ENTER
THE INTERNATIONAL MARKET WITH THE KNOWLEDGE AND AT LEAST
TACIT SUPPORT OF OFFICIALS OF THE LPDR, THE SWEDISH
GOVERNMENT WILL BE PLACED IN A PARTICULARLY EMBARRASSING
POSITION.

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3. HE RECALLED, IN THIS CONNECTION, THE FORMAL STATE-
MENT MADE TO THE UN COMMISSION ON NARCOTICS DRUGS IN GENEVA
ON JULY 29, 1976, BY MAYSOUK SAYSOMPHEANG, LAO MINISTER
OF INDUSTRY AND COMMERCE. OBERG PROVIDED US WITH A COPY
OF THE LAO STATEMENT WHICH (TRANSLATED FROM FRENCH) IS AS
FOLLOWS: QTE FROM ITS FOUNDATION ON DECEMBER 2, 1975, THE

LAO PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC, PURSUING ITS PEACEFUL SOCIAL REVOLUTION, HAS PROHIBITED THE TRADE, PREPARATION AND DISTRIBUTION OF NARCOTICS PRODUCTS WITHIN ITS TERRITORY. FOR THIS REASON IT IS NOT (RPT NOT) IN A POSITION, IN PRESENT CIRCUMSTANCES, TO PREPARE AN EVALUATION EITHER OF ITS REQUIREMENTS FOR NARCOTICS PRODUCTS OR ITS PRODUCTION OF OPIUM OR OF ITS CULTIVATION OF OPIUM POPPIES OR OF ITS MANUFACTURE OF SYNTHETIC NARCOTICS PRODUCTS FOR THE YEAR 1977. END QTE.

4. OBERG FELT THAT, AGAINST THE BACKGROUND OF SUCH A FLAT DENIAL OF PRODUCTION, PREPARATION, AND TRADE OF NARCOTICS PRODUCTS, IT WOULD BE DIFFICULT FOR THE SWEDISH GOVERNMENT TO JUSTIFY SUPPORT FOR THE UNFDAC PROGRAM IN LAOS, SHOULD IT BECOME EVIDENT THAT ILLICIT NARCOTICS ARE ENTERING THE WORLD MARKET, WITH THE KNOWLEDGE OF LAO GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS.

WHITEHOUSE

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